SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I am on a point of order...*(interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, no points of order...*(interruptions)*...Please, sit down...*(interruptions)*...Please, sit down ...*(interruptions)*...I would say, please do not move this motion now. You get a clarification as to how the vacancy has arisen, and then come to the House to move it.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 14TH DECEMBER, 1998

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI DILIP RAY): Sir, I beg to announce that the Government Business in this House for the next week will consist of:—

1. Consideration and passing of:—
   (a) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997.
   (b) The Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha.
   (c) The Railway Claims Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha.
   (d) The North Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
   (e) The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Repeal) Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha.
   (f) The Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1997.
   (g) The Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
   (h) The Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha.
   (i) The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha.
   (j) The Explosive Substances (Amendment) bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha.
2. Consideration and return of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha:—
   (a) The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1998.
   (b) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1998.
3. Consideration and passing of the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I have a point to make. This is the last week of the session. Next week, we will be meeting only for three days. The hon. Minister has given us a statement on Government Business. In this House, many of us had persistently raised the issue of the Prasar Bharati Bill. We were told by the Government that they have not made up their mind. Now, the final list that the Government has placed before the House does not include that important thing in which the Government considered fit to promulgate an Ordinance. Therefore, I would like to know, through you, from the Government as to what is the fate of the Prasar Bharati Bill. There is a reason for this because on the last day of the last session, we persistently raised this issue. And the Government made a statement that since the papers had not come from the hon. President's office, it could not be tabled for discussion. We wanted extension by one day so that we could discuss it. That was also not agreed to. After a few days, an Ordinance was promulgated. Now, it seems that the Government does not attach any importance to that. Why? My first question is this. Why is there a change of mind? And secondly, why is the Rajya Sabha which persistently wanted to discuss the Bill not being allowed to discuss it at all? In my opinion, Sir, it is a grave Parliamentary

impropriety. I would like to know from the Government, through you, as to what prompted the Government to exclude that very important thing from the Government Business for the rest of this session.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): I want to make a point. My learned friend has already mentioned about the Prasar Bharati Bill. *(Interruptions)*. ....but when the Bill was returned within two hours, that information was not communicated to the House. The House continued up to 9.30 p.m. or so to discuss another Bill on Salaries of Members or something. The House was never informed that the Prasar Bharati Bill had been approved by the President for placing before the Rajya Sabha. That was a serious breach of privilege of the House. This important information was not communicated to us. The Lok Sabha continued for two more days, but the Rajya Sabha was prorogued. *(Interruptions)*. I think it is a very serious ...*(Interruptions)*. No, the question is ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: There are more important issues to be discussed than this issue. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Here, a former Minister in this House dragged the name of Rashtrapati Bhawan कि हमने भेज दिया है और अब तक वहां से नहीं आया है। हमने इस सदन में इस सरकार को चुनौती दी थी कि आप इस हाउस में गलत कह रहे हैं। आप इस हाउस के कस्टोडियन हैं और इस सदन में मंत्री महोदय ने गलत इनफॉर्मेशन दी थी। हमने चुनौती दी थी कि सरकार के पास यह मामला है लेकिन उसके बावजूद भी उन्होंने राष्ट्रपति भवन में नहीं भेजा है। अब भी पूरे सदन को, सबको मालूम है कि पिछले सत्र के आखिरी में यह कहा गया था कि समय नहीं है। अभी हम लोग मिल रहे हैं। इतने दिन हो गये हैं और सरकार यह कह रही है कि हमारे पास वह व्यक्तिगत मामला नहीं था। अब सी॰ ई॰ ओ॰ को हटा दिया है, चेयरमैन नहीं है। आप प्रसार भारती की आटोनॉमि खत्म कर रहे हैं, एक के बाद एक इंस्टीट्यूशन की आटोनॉमी खत्म कर रहे हैं। दूसरी जगह आप यहां आकर भाषण देते हैं।

श्री सभापति: अब बात खत्म हो गयी है।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: सर, आपको यहां प्रसार भारती के बारे में मौका देना चाहिए कि या तो सरकार यहां पर स्टेटमेंट लेकर आए या हम यहां पर चर्चा करें।

کہ ہم نے بھیج دیا ہے اور اب تک وہاں سے نہیں آیا ہے۔ ہم نے اس سدن میں اس سرکار کو چنوتی دی تھی کہ آپ اس ہاؤس میں غلط کہہ رہے ہیں۔ آپ اس ہاؤس کے کسٹوڈین ہیں اور اس سدن میں منتری مہودے نے غلط انفارمیشن دی تھی۔ ہم نے چنوتی دی تھی کہ سرکار کے پاس یہ معاملہ ہے لیکن اسکے باوجود بھی انھوں نے راشٹرپتی بھون میں نہیں بھیجا ہے۔ اب بھی پورے سدن کو سب کو معلوم ہے کہ پچھلے اجلاس کے آخر میں یہ کہا گیا تھا کہ وقت نہیں ہے۔ ابھی ہم لوگ مل رہے ہیں۔ اتنے دن ہو گئے ہیں اور سرکار یہ کہہ رہی ہے کہ وہ ہمارے پاس وہ ویکتی گت معاملہ نہیں تھا اب سی۔ ای۔ او کو ہٹا دیا گیا ہے چیئرمین نہیں ہے۔ آپ پرسار بھارتی کی آٹونامی ختم کر رہے ہیں۔ ایک کے بعد ایک انسٹی ٹیوشن کی آٹونامی ختم کر رہے ہیں۔ دوسری جگہ آپ یہاں آکر بھاشن دیتے ہیں۔

شری سبھاپتی: اب بات ختم ہو گئی ہے۔

شری محمد سلیم: سر۔ آپکو یہاں پرسار

بھارتی کے زمانے میں موقع دینا چاہیئے کہ
یا تو سرکار یہاں پر اسٹیٹمنٹ لیکر آئے ہم
یہاں پر جیر جاتے ہیں۔

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to associate our party with the sentiments expressed by my esteemed friend and colleague, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta. The manner in which this Government has dealt with the Prasar Bharati Bill and the manner in which this August House has been persistently ignored, is a matter of deep concern. Through you, Sir, I would request the Government at this late hour to bring forward that Bill for consideration of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you to say anything?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, I will get in touch with the concerned Ministry and come back.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Dissolution of Indian Airlines and Boards

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of this August House to the sudden dissolution of the Joint Indian Airlines and Air India Board last week-end.

Sir, the arbitrary functioning of the concerned Ministry has already attracted widespread public attention and concern. This sudden dissolution, the reasons and the factors responsible for it, are indeed shrouded in mystery. Newspapers have reported that the decision to separate and to re-constitute the two Boards came in the background of the recent decision of the Joint Board to set up a holding company with a joint mangement group in a bid to energies operations of the two national carriers. Newspapers have further reported that this is not the real reason. The real reason is the differences between the Government, the Ministry and the Board about the purchase of a particular type of aircraft. Sir, it is very important that the House should be taken into confidence as to what are the factors which have led to the sudden dissolution of the Joint Board. Air India and the Indian Airlines are facing great difficulties. Both these Airlines are running in huge losses. Restructuring of the these Airlines is under consideration. There is a Consultants' report. I believe, Fergusons have reported on it. There is a Kelkar Committee Report. All these are matters of great public concern. Therefore, Sir, through you, I would request the Government to enlighten the House as to what were the reasons which led them to dissolve the Joint Board so suddenly at midnight.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raj Mohinder Singh. The hon. Member is not present.

Bodo Killings

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, with your permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through this House to the ghastly killing of twenty persons in a forest near Tulsibari in Kokrajhar district.

Sir, before I come to the state of affairs in that part of the country, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and request the Union Home Ministry to collect the information and share that information with the House.

Sir, from the newspaper reports we get two versions from the local Government officials. Accoring to one verison, through the name of the official has not been given, it has been put within quotes that these persons were killed, because they were illegal wood-cutters. To my mind, it appears to be very strange that some organisations with most sophisticated arms will kill people assuming even if they are illegal wood-cuters. That has been quoted through the lips of the an official. through the official